

**AMENDMENT TO H. CON. RES. 290, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF MICHIGAN**

At the end, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 30. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF**
2 **SUPPORTING THE NATION'S EMERGENCY**
3 **FIRST-RESPONDERS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

5 (1) over 1.2 million men and women work as
6 fire and emergency services personnel in 32,000 fire
7 and emergency medical services departments across
8 the Nation;

9 (2) over eighty percent of those who serve do so
10 as volunteers;

11 (3) the Nation's firefighters responded to more
12 than 18 million calls in 1998, including over 1.7 mil-
13 lion fires;

14 (4) an average of 100 firefighters per year lose
15 their lives in the course of their duties; and

16 (5) the Federal Government has a role in pro-
17 tecting the health and safety of the Nation's fire
18 fighting personnel.

19 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that—

- 1 (1) recognizing the Nation's firefighters and
2 emergency services crucial role in preserving and
3 protecting life and property, such Federal assistance
4 as low-interest loan programs, community develop-
5 ment block grant reforms, emergency radio spectrum
6 reallocations, and volunteer fire assistance programs,
7 should be considered; and
8 (2) additional resources should be set aside for
9 such assistance.